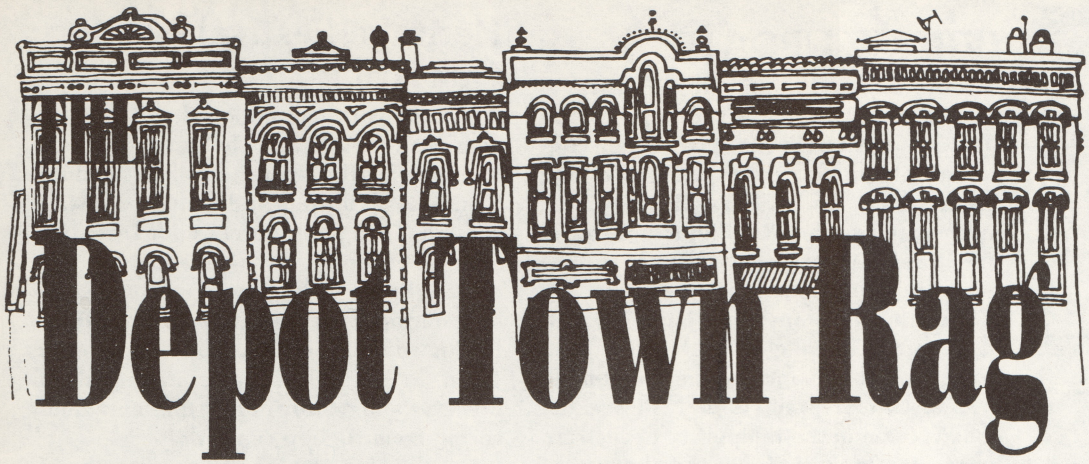


Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

JANUARY MEETINGS
Merchants - 7:30 Dec. 13
Association - 7:30 Dec. 20
Foundation - 8:00 Dec. 27
...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

NEW STREET LIGHTS WILL ACCOMPANY BRIDGE

(Only two months ago THE RAG asked Mayor Murdock what he had "done for us recently." At a meeting of the Historic Depot Town Foundation in December the mayor announced a new street light plan for the District. Thanks, Pete.)

Detroit Edison company has offered a new street lighting plan to the City to be installed along with the construction of the New Cross Street Bridge from Huron Street to River Street adding lower, closer together antique style lighting through the Depot Town district. The 1979 DEPOT TOWN STUDY called for replacing the modern, high visibility bluish lighting with just such a treatment. Now that dream seems possible.

The new system will be amber arc lighting, casting the same warm color scheme as seen in Ann Arbor's Old West Side, making even more clear to nightime visitors that portion of the Historic District.

The fixture design possibliities include phony colony and bastard mansard, both in aluminum and available in a variety of pole colors. We expect the Historic District Commission will favor the black mansard model and that Depot Towners will be happy to see fixtures more in keeping with the style and proportions of these old, pre-Civil War, brick buildings.

LAST COMMUTER STOP JANUARY 13th

Amtrak doesn't stop here any more.
No more trains will pause at Ypsi's door.
The railroads tried their darnest
not to let commuters down,
But passenger and freight trains, now,
will roar right through our town.
Although Depot Town is thriving,
The conductors knew the score:
Amtrak doesn't stop here any more.

Shorter poles will necessitate placing the new light fixtures close together to adequately illuminate the commercial district, the new bridge, and the entrances to Frog Island and Riverside Park.

Electrical wiring of course, is underground, and fully covered by the five-year-old sidewalks. Ripping up the sidewalks should fit right in with the construction going on at the bridge site. All this accompanying mess will be part of Edison's installation, as well as an increased bill to the City for about $1700 per year in extra maintenance costs--the only expense for the conversion.

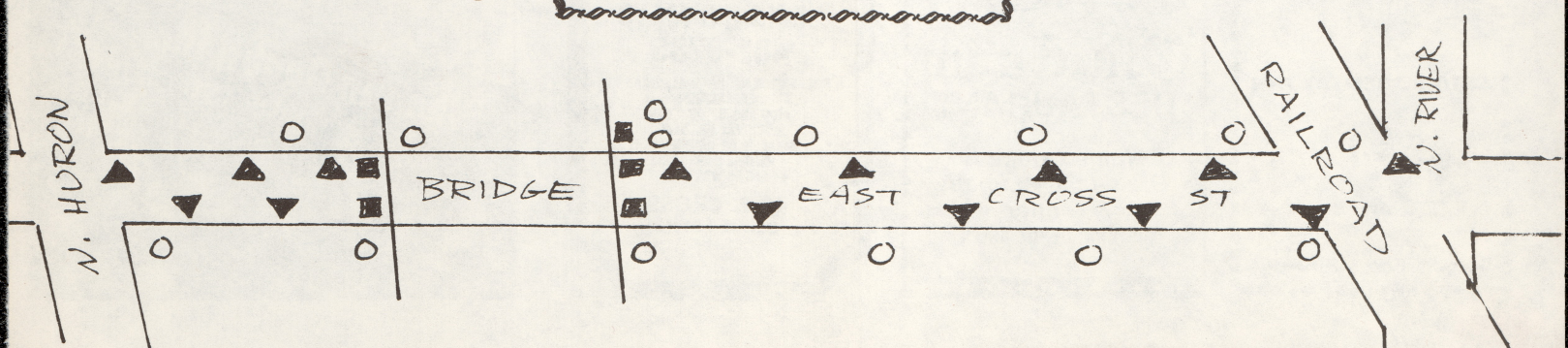
New Street Light Plan:

- ○ Existing-400 W Mercury vapor light
- ▲ Proposed-250 W HPS orange street light
- ■ Proposed-400 W HPS orange street light

Bridge Down/Spirit Up

* City officials are awarding contracts for the Cross Street Bridge and expect its demolition in January. Construction of the New Cross Street Bridge is anticipated to take six months.
* John Waite has brought the Michigan Artrain back from California and is getting his Depot Town II trackside development on schedule.
* Mayor Murdock and Detroit Edison have proposed a new street lighting plan for the block.
* The Historic Depot Town Foundation and other neighbors have appeared in public hearing before City Council to create a second Downtown Development Authority in Depot Town.
* The Freight House is fast becoming Ypsilanti's version of Cobo Hall with exciting events every weekend.
* The DTA/WEMU Jazz Festival is enjoying its third exciting season while other music centers complain of low attendance at clubs and concerts.
* Depot Town merchants celebrated their 168th Victorian Christmas and were described by the DETROIT FREE PRESS thusly:

"Depot Town represents an urban success story. Its existence as a quaint attractive shopping area is a tribute to the vision and dedication of its merchants and property owners." (December 8, 1983)



PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC
COMIC BOOKS • BASEBALL CARDS • SUPPLIES
50 E. CROSS • 485-4930
YPSILANTI, MI 48197

Olde Towne Coin & Gold
We Buy Silver and Gold
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YPSILANTI, MI 48197
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Learn a NEW HOBBY
J & J Plastercraft Studio
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Sundays 1-3 pm - Young people paint
$2.00 everything included
Classes 7 pm-9 pm Tues. & Thurs.
Open Tues.-Sun. (closed Monday)
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No Firing Necessary

and everything nice
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DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
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DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St., (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
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SALOON
Aubree's
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Old Town RESTAURANT
Home Cooked Breakfast • Lunch & Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
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• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT FRAMING OF OBJECTS ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

40% off everything except consignments
JANUARY 16 - 21
When In Doubt, Inc.
CARDS AND GIFTS
23 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti 483-1448
in historic Depot Town
10-6 Mon. thru Fri. . 10-5 Sat

BRIDGE UPDATE:

Norm Lawson of ROSEMARY'S CORNER THE CANDY SHOP and DEPOT MAILBOX is justifiably concerned about the interruption of bridge traffic since his HERITAGE SQUARE building (formerly B&D Plumbing, etc.) is the closest Depot Town business to that demolition and construction project.

Recently Norm met with Larry Gilbert, of Livonia's Greenfield Construction, who is the project manager for the work on the bridge. Gilbert predicts we will see the construction of the temporary pedestrian bridge by January 15th and the actual demolition of the present structure will follow immediately. Foot traffic should be open all through the demolition and construction and that temporary bridge should offer a great vantage point for all of Depot Town's sidewalk superintendents.

Wise neighbors will follow Norm's good example by introducing themselves to Larry and his crew and then behaving like they own the project, themselves. Such proprietariness has paid off in Depot Town's renaissance. WE might as well claim Riverside Park, too, now that the new street lights will make an obvious visual connection to that part of town.

Heritage Festival Needs Our HELP

Nope! working an eight-hour shift for operation SAM and helping to raise $25,000 for the operation of the annual Ypsilanti Heritage Festival wasn't enough. They want more! Depot Town has only six months to get ready for the onslaught of Festival-goers who will soon be pouring over the new Cross Street Bridge to get back into good, old Depot Town to see what we've managed to preserve and restore during the winter and spring construction season.

Many in the block have suggestions of how to handle the 6th annual Festival crowd: "Keep it all in the park", "Send them to Ann Arbor", "No more art shows", "Angle park antique autos in Depot Town", "Put the jazz tent in the street", and more.

Some of the biggest changes for the 1984 Festival include the fact that Carolyn McKeever won't be painting the signs or managing the exhibitors, Tom Dodd won't be producing the three-day-long stage show and Paul Fetters won't be organizing the spectacular Heritage Parade.

Rather than spread their energies all over the city, Carolyn, Tom and Paul will work to coordinate the Festival events with the desires of the Depot Town folks. They will look for ideas and help at monthly Depot Town Merchant meetings and will help to coordinate efforts with the Festival committee.

Anyone who wishes to work closer with the Festival Planning Committee should make their interest known to the Visitors and Convention Bureau (482-4290) and get on their list for the weekly meetings which begin in January and continue until a few weeks after the Festival.

Every Window A Winner

This last holiday, the judges of the Victorian window displays decided to lump the marvelous exhibitions into two catgories:

1. Much appreciated and
2. Spectacular

While the exurban shopping centers truck in plastic Mickey Mouses and mountains of glitter, little, old Depot Town stays close to its roots, enjoying its great antiquity and harkening back to the days when this area borrowed its architectural style and traditions from the court of Queen Victoria. Whether this Charles Dickens image reminds us of our own heritage or a fantasy to still be experienced for the first time, Depot Town merchants have cooperated in bringign the community a delightful, new tradition.

MUCH APPRECIATED

PHANTOM OF THE ATTIC carried out its comic book theme with cutouts atop the refrigerator, bells and roping inside the window.

RIVER ART WORKS festooned greens around the edges of their awning.

THE MASONIC BLOCK carried tiny white lights in the windows of all three floors.

OLD TOWN RESTAURANT's Rachel Kornilakis displayed a tiny Christmas town in the east window.

OLD TOWN COIN AND GOLD swagged greens inside and out.

CITY BODY carried the green and white theme throughout their office.

ESQUIRE INTERIORS mixed traditional holiday decor with their always productive window.

THE CANDY SHOP trimmed its tiny windows to frame a view of the delicious candies inside.

THE DTA CABOOSE platform welcomed Santa several times, amid greens and red bows.

J & J PLASTERCRAFT SHOP skillfully integrated many plaster images for the holday with lights, greens and bows.

JACQUELINE'S BOUTIQUE carried the winter snow scene inside the glass to accent warm coats, hats and gloves.

THE EAGLES added new red plastic inserts to the front windows and were full of Christmas cheer inside.

STANDARD PRINTING filled both mantel sized windows, one with the only nativity scene on the block.

PRONTO PIZZA added gaily wrapped presents to their front windows.

INSTANT REPLAY featured skis, winter boots and other winter sports items with their greenery which extended to COOPER TV.

SPECTACULAR category:

MILLER MOTORS always boasts an exhibit which cannot be rivaled anywhere: Santa sitting in a red Hudson convertible, surrounded by Christmas presents!

SIDETRACK's interior was, by far, the most comprehensive design seen, with an inviting look-through from the street. They add to this display each year.

DON AND BEV SHANKWILER should be thanked every year for continuing their enormous tree in their first floor living room. Fully twenty feet high and at least fifteen feet wide, they had to cut a tunnel through it this year to get to the back room.

MILLER'S ICE CREAM even added red table cloths and had an antique toy train engine in the window with cotton smoke. Their tree ornaments were red and green ice cream cones.

IKE'S BARBER SHOP had one of the most effective inside/outside displays and piped carols to the sidewalk, as well.

VINTAGE PASSION/TREASURE SHOP added holiday sparkles to the door sidelights and also showed an enormous exhibit in the window next door: truly a narrative display of "mom" getting Christmas dinner on the table.

SHEAR GENIUS added still more greens, trees and holiday festivity to its always naturalistic and growing window display of plants and flowers.

NEW HERITAGE REAL ESTATE opened a new window and showed an antique doll house, toys and old holiday wallpaper.

THE DELI SHOPPE displayed great in/out continuity with green roping, bows and creative lighting in all its views.

THE HEALTH EMPOIUM boasted two sparse, but elegant windows, one a New Year's theme, the other a winter skating scene done mostly with cut-outs of wrapping paper simulating a small town diorama.

WHEN IN DOUBT had probably the best feature of a product, since virtually all of their exhibit was for sale within. The tiny red and gold side window was every bit as spectacular as the main window. There's no doubt any more.

...AND EVERYTHING NICE carried the children's fantasy to the farthest and most sensitive extreme. Their toyland fantasy was not only beautifully arranged, but was an elegant collection of antique toys. No one missed the effect of the manikins standing near the glass--looking in. We all joined them.

JAMES MAC DONALD & APPLE ANNIE'S showed the best developed and most unified theme on the block. The green antique skis and sled and green bows on hurricane lanterns were perfectly balanced by the giant, hand-cut snow flakes and snow man. It was artfully lighted, old fashioned and crisply arranged.

AUBREE' SALOON drew their theme to both floors of the building with candle lights upstairs and a different old-time scene in each of its four first floor windows. One scene simply showed holiday sewing on the sewing machine. Very effective.

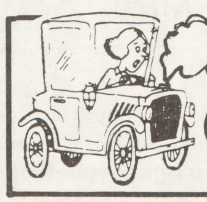
THE FREIGHT HOUSE also showed great inside/outside continuity with re-used DPW downtown decorations used most effectively and in excellent taste.

ROSEMARY'S CORNER displayed an all pink window with tree, wreaths and other holiday decor. All of the components were for sale, so the show was constantly changing. How many times did you have to re-do your big window?

HON'S FLOWERS AND FANCIES, as usual, sported two of the most gorgeous windows to be seeen anywhere in the country this holiday season: the east window with an antique sleigh and the west window with a Victorian Christmas tree and antique toys, gifts, and floral arrangements. If anyone should receive a special mention it is Hon's owner, Joe Wizauer, who brought this warm tradition to the block and invited us all to share in its celebration with him. Thanks, Joe. Thanks, Depot Town. It was a beautiful holiday in this block and we look forward to this being a continuing tradition.

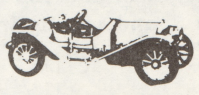
DEPOT EXCHANGE showed a traditional Christmas tree covered with antique greeting cards. It was a thoughtful design which encouraged shoppers to pause and examine every inch of the display.

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI



CITY RADIATOR
11 E. CROSS
HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN
483-2248

CITY BODY SHOP



• BUMPING & PAINTING
• AUTO GLASS INSTALLED
• ALIGNMENT & BALANCE

HUnter 24737 • 20 E. CROSS Cars, Trucks, Motor Homes

DEPOT TOWN RAG:

In regard to your article as to whether or not to hav a Las Vegas weekend in the Freight House....

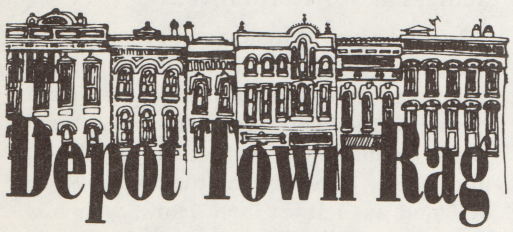
It depends on what you want to do. If you want to make money, then, yes you should. If you want to set yourself up as the moral conscience of the proper, then you should not. However, it that is your intention, you should also close down the bars who have much ruder people than were at either of the tents this summer.

Actually, I have run into ruder people in the grocery store--usually little old ladies with grey hair.

If you are going to do this DO NOT have fancy lights and jazz. These people only want to gamble and they want to see their cards and concentrate on them.

If you want genteel, try Tara before the Civil War. If you want money, run the gambling concession.

Joyce Croff



A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Rex Richie, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

Associate member $10
Regular member $25
Sustaining member $100

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COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

ANNUAL ADS SUPPORT THE RAG

January marks the beginning of the eighth year of publication of this little tabloid. The majority of our advertisers began with a new contract just a year ago. Three sizes and prices of ad layouts are available and will entirely pay the cost of publication of these pages. Bonni Rosen-Fine of ...AND EVERYTHING NICE is soliciting ads for the coming year. Sorry, only Depot Town businesses are eligible for such contracts. If your ad is not included, please find Bonni. We are already laying out the February issue.

Jacqueline's Boutique
25 E. Cross St. Depot Town Ypsilanti, Mi 483-8150
Gently Used Women's Clothes
10-5 Tue. - Fri.
10 - 4 Sat.

PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
483-4555
SUN-THU 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2
Free Delivery
on orders over $4.00
COUPON
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WHEN ORDERING, ASK FOR:
PRONTO PRONTO
2 for 1
ANY SIZE PIZZA
Round or Square
Pick-up or Delivery/One coupon per order
COUPON $4.00 OFF ANY X-LARGE OR LARGE SQUARE PIZZA One coupon per pizza Pick-up or Delivery
COUPON $3.00 OFF ANY LARGE ROUND OR MEDIUM SQUARE PIZZA One coupon per pizza Pick-up or Delivery
COUPON $3.00 OFF ANY MEDIUM ROUND PIZZA One coupon per pizza Pick-up or Delivery
COUPON $2.00 OFF ANY SMALL ROUND OR SMALL SQUARE PIZZA One coupon per pizza Pick-up or Delivery

Depot Mailbox
POSTAL BOX RENTALS
MESSAGE SERVICES
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN
485-499-

Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

DTA 15 Dec. 1983, 7:30 p.m.

Jeff Lorenzen, from North River Antiques, is a partner with David Carruthers and introduced himself.

Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

$$$: C. McKeever gave the treasurer's report in S. Shaw's absence. $182.97 current balance.

AWARD: from WEMU for "supporting public radio" will be framed and hung in Caboose.

SCOUTS: John Barr's most recent letter suggests we drop the claim against the Scouts for using our electric drop for the Circus at Heritage Festival.

WCA: we will pay our annual $35 dues to the Washtenaw Council for the Arts and host their April meeting here, since the December plan was cancelled.

We pass on condolensces to Paul Fetters at the death of his father.

JAZZ FEST: 450 attended the opening concert in December at about $900 profit. Actual profits are difficult to assess until the end of the four-part series. EMU suggests we build a new, higher stage which they will store. $100 has already been pledged for that project.

STATIONERY: McKeever will be reimbursed $65 for the new DTA stationery.

LIGHTS: Detroit Edison and the Mayor have presented a plan for new, old-looking street lighting to accompany the bridge replacement from Huron to River Streets. The sidewalks will be ripped up and the $1700 extra annual cost for maintenance will be to the City.

GAMBLING: Rex Richie will negotiate with CBC once their offer is clear.

SIGNS: Norm Lawson has spoken with Joan Helkaa who will guarantee the erecting of our signs (This way to Depot Town) on City property. Norm, Rex, Jerry, Carolyn, Paul, Tom volunteered to help accomplish this.

FOUNDATION: January 9 public hearing of the proposal for a second Downtown Development Authority: 7:30 p.m., City Hall.

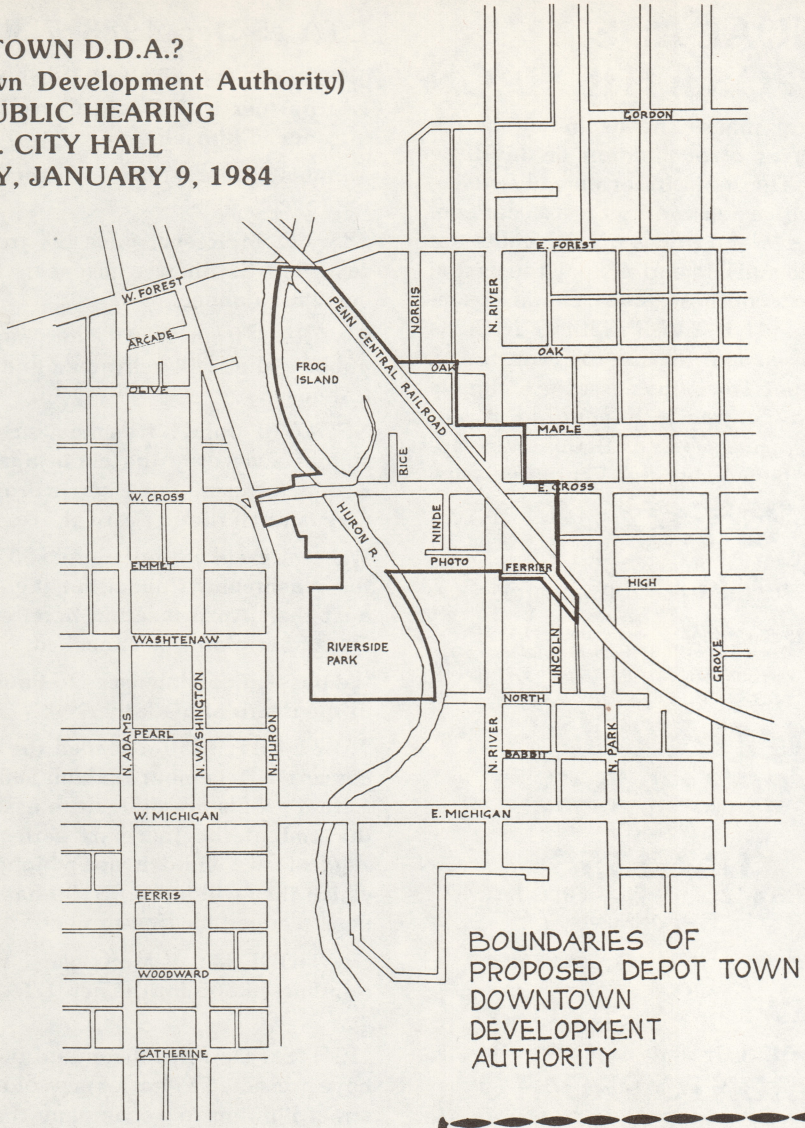
MERCHANTS: all are invited to a dessert party at the Freight House from 7:30 - 9:30 on January 12.

BEST YET AWARD: to the Depot Town Merchants and Residents for their artful Victorian Christmas displays.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD: To Jerry Meadows for forgetting to keep those neighborly recognitions going each month.

ADJOURNED: 9:10 p.m.

DEPOT TOWN D.D.A.?
(Downtown Development Authority)
OPEN PUBLIC HEARING
7:30 P.M. CITY HALL
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1984



BOUNDARIES OF PROPOSED DEPOT TOWN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE LITTLE BLUE ENGINE

The little blue engine looked up at the hill.
His light was weak, his whistle was shrill.
He was tired and small, and the hill was tall,
And his face blushed red as he softly said,
"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can."

So he started up with a chug and a strain,
And he puffed and pulled with might and main.
And slowly he climbed, a foot at a time,
And his engine coughed as he whispered soft,
"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can."

With a squeak and a creak and a toot and a sigh,
With an extra hope and anextra try,
He would not stop--now he neared the top--
And strong and proud he cried out loud,
"I think I can, I think I can, I think I can!"

He was almost there, when --CRASH! SMASH! BASH!
He slid down and mashed into engine hash
On the rocks below...which goes to show
If the track is tough and the hill is rough,
THINKING you can just ain't enough!

-Shel Silverstein

Ted's
AUTO ELECTRIC
ALTERNATOR SERVICE - TROUBLE SHOOTING
307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan
Phone 483-1238

TED'S AUTO ELECTRIC

Troubles with your car's electrical system? Don't you fret. We not only have the best restaurants, bars, antique stores, health stores, body shop and novelty shops around, but we also have the best automobile electric shop around in TED'S AUTO ELECTRIC, at the corner of North River and Photo Streets. Ted Mull's experience in the field began in childhood, nearly forty-five years ago. He first opened the business in 1960 across the street from his current address at 307 North River.

Soon Ted built his own shop and, with the great growth in his business, had to add on to the building in 1963. A great hometown success story, Ted is a local kid, a graduate of Ypsilanti High School, and is now joined in the business by son Jeff and associate Steve Horn, who has worked with Ted for four years.

Together they specialize in alternators, starters, and electrical trouble-shooting, but they do not do tune-ups.

Ted serves on the City's zoning board of appeals and last year was happy to celebrate the burning of the mortgage on his Depot Town property. It's all his, now, and he's here to stay.

Jim MacDonalds Apple Annies
ANTIQUES
Functional Antiques
Vintage Clothing
29 E. Cross Tues.-Sat. 12 -6
481-0555

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035

IKE'S
DEPOT
TOWN
BARBER
SHOP
40
E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE
Delicatessen and Catering

In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions

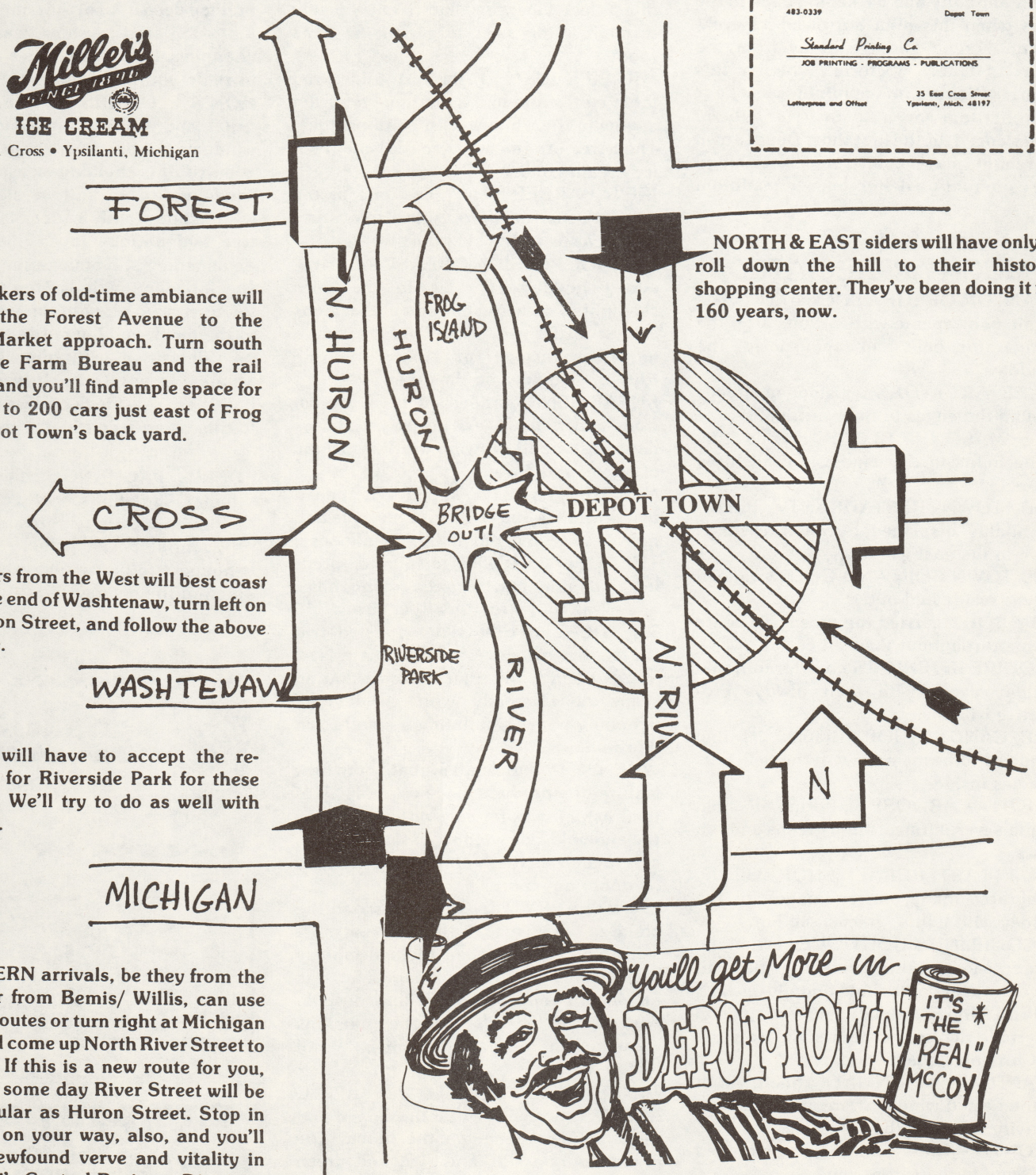
BRIDGE OUT - New Route to the East.

The City of Ypsilanti and their engineering firm, McDonnel/Proudfoot, are seeking contracts with construction companies for the replacement of the Cross Street Bridge over the Huron River and expect the seventy year old bridge to be demolished in January of 1984. Contracts state completion within six months. If they should go over (as in the LeForge Bridge time limit last year), we'll still see the New Cross Street Bridge open well before the 1984 Heritage Festival. (Knock on concrete).

Meanwhile, back in little, old Depot Town, folks are wondering how others will find their way down here. Until now, most people from the West have found us by accident, since most of Cross Street is a wrong-way one-way street. Although the City sees no great need for additional signage, the contractors will at least erect detour signs to keep people from driving into the River, Beyond that, it seems, it's up to us.

Miller's Dairy Bar
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan

483-0339 Depot Town
Standard Printing Co.
JOB PRINTING - PROGRAMS - PUBLICATIONS
Letterpress and Offset
35 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197



EMU seekers of old-time ambiance will best use the Forest Avenue to the Farmers' Market approach. Turn south between the Farm Bureau and the rail road track and you'll find ample space for parking up to 200 cars just east of Frog Island, Depot Town's back yard.

NORTH & EAST siders will have only to roll down the hill to their historic shopping center. They've been doing it for 160 years, now.

Travellers from the West will best coast down to the end of Washtenaw, turn left on North Huron Street, and follow the above EMU route.

Downtown will have to accept the responsibility for Riverside Park for these six months. We'll try to do as well with Frog Island.

SOUTHERN arrivals, be they from the Freeway or from Bemis/ Willis, can use the above routes or turn right at Michigan Avenue and come up North River Street to the tracks. If this is a new route for you, notice that some day River Street will be as spectacular as Huron Street. Stop in Downtown on your way, also, and you'll notice a newfound verve and vitality in in Ypsilanti's Central Business District.